

CARP.

Oscar Wilde and His New Play
—How the Poet
Looks.

Something From the Inside on Ohio
Politics—The Hoadly-Payne
Combination.

Central Park on Sunday—The
Happy Children and the
Obelisk.

Special Correspondence of the Leader.

NEW YORK, August 14.—Oscar Wilde is again in New York. He came in Saturday by a Cunard steamer, and lolled in his cab in an æsthetic attitude, as he was driven to the Brunswick. He says he has come to America for a stay of two weeks, to superintend the putting on the stage of his play, "Vera, or the Nihilist," which is to open at the Union Square on next Monday. Oscar is looking well. He is fatter than when he left America, and his dress is more like that of a civilized being. He has cut his long flowing locks, and long pantaloons have taken the place of his knee breeches. He wore this afternoon a soft black hat, slouched like that of a brigand. His trousers were almost as tight as his skin, and his cuffs were rolled back over his coat. Speaking of his short hair, he said: "Its present cut is modeled after that of a bust of Nero in the Louvre. Having had my hair cut short I was forced, you know, to give up my knee breeches, for knee breeches only go with long hair. Short hair and knee breeches are an absurdity."

Mr. Wilde says he has written much new poetry, and he will issue a second volume of his poems this fall. He thinks America is on the road to a proper appreciation of art, which, he says, in America should be of the simple nature of the days of the Revolution. Mr. Wilde's play,

"VERA, OR THE NIHILIST"

is much talked of here, and its first night will be before a full house. Marie Prescott will be its heroine, and the elegant costumes which she is to wear are on exhibition in the corner window of Lord & Taylor's on Broadway. Four costumes are shown on wax lay figures, and in each case the face is hidden by a mask. The dresses comprise a peasant's costume, a fine gold-brocaded silk trimmed with pearls, and a striking costume of black and gold plush. A magnificent crown, a fac-simile in paste of the one worn by Alexander III. at his coronation, is also exhibited. A letter to Marie Prescott from Oscar Wilde concerning the play was published here to-day. It is full of good sense about the success of plays in general. A part of it reads as follows:

"I think we must remember that no amount of advertising will make a bad play succeed, if it is not a good play well acted. I mean that one might patrol the streets of New York with a procession of vermillion caravans twice a day for six months to announce that 'Vera' was a great play, but if on the first night of its production the play was not a strong play, well acted, mounted, all the advertisements in the world would avail nothing. My name signed to a play will excite some interest in London and America. Your name as the heroine carries great weight with it. What we want to do is to have all the real conditions of success in our hands. Success is a science; if you have the conditions you get the result. Art is the mathematical result of the emotional desire for beauty. If it is not thought out it is nothing. As regards dialogue, you can produce tragic effects by introducing comedy. A laugh in an audience does not destroy terror, but, by relieving it, it aids it. Never be afraid that by raising a laugh you destroy tragedy. On the contrary, you intensify it. The canons of each art depend on what they appeal to. Painting appeals to the eye and is founded on the science of acoustics. The drama appeals to human nature, and must have as its ultimate basis the science of psychology and physiology. Now, one of the facts of physiology is the desire of any very intensified emotion to be relieved by some emotion that is its opposite. Nature's example of dramatic effect is the laughter of hysteria or the tears of joy. So I cannot cut out my comedy lines. Besides, the essence of good dialogue is interruption. All good dialogue should give the effect of its being made by the reaction of the personages on one another. It should never seem to be ready made by the author, and interruptions have not merely their artistic effect, but their physical value. They give the actor time to breathe and get new breath power."

OHIO POLITICS.

I had a talk at the Fifth Avenue Hotel to-day with a man who knows as much about the political situation in Ohio as any one in the State. This gentleman is closely connected with the managing of the campaign, but his business here is of a private nature and he will not permit his name to be used in connection with the interview. I can vouch for it, however, that he knows whereof he speaks. Said he:

"The campaign is just about to open, and it promises to be red hot from the start. The Republicans will have the best speakers in the country in the field, and they intend to carry the war into Africa. The State Committee are now trying to procure the services of Senators Logan, Blaine, Frye, and Harrison. 'Gene Hale and Tom Reed, of Maine, have been written to, and Governor Porter, General Brown, and Congressman Calkins will come over to Macedonia and help us. We will have Senator Bruce and Judge Lawrence from Washington, and our whole local talent, including John Sherman, Ed. Noyes, and Ben Butterworth, will be in the field, together with little George Sheridan, of Louisiana, and others. It will be a lively campaign, I assure you. It will be fully as active as that of '79, and will be, I think, somewhat similar to it."

"What speakers will the Democrats have?" said I.

"I don't know. It is their intention now to make a short campaign and to have no speaking of any importance before the middle of September. But I think the Republicans will drive them from that resolution. By that time we will have held meetings in every county of the State, and the Democrats will have been forced into the field. The Democrats prefer a still hunt, but we will make them fight."

"Has there been much change in the situation since the nominations?"

"Yes, and I think altogether in favor of the Republicans. The Scott law, which the Democrats considered our weakest issue, has become our strongest, and now there is not a nominee for the Legislature who would proclaim that he was in favor of its unconstitutional repeal. The national issue of the fight will be the tariff, and the Republicans, as protectionists, have by all odds the best side of that. I am sure we will carry our whole ticket, legislative and gubernatorial. The Cincinnati convention will be held this week, and a first-class ticket will be nominated. Tom Young is talked of as being the candidate for auditor, and should he be chosen the campaign will be a rousing one."

"Suppose the Republicans succeed, is it a fixed fact that Foster is to be Senator?"

"Not at all. The Senatorial question will not be discussed until after the election. Noyes, Keifer, McKinley, and others are spoken of, as well as Governor Foster. The pushing of the claims of any Senatorial candidate during the election would endanger our chances of success. It is tacitly conceded that this matter is to be left till after the polls are closed. At present the Republican party is harmonious throughout."

"How about the Democrats?"

"The Democrats are torn up with quarrels. As for Senator, among them it is Pendleton against the field, and should Hoadly succeed, the field will probably be victorious. I am confident there is a combination, either tacit or otherwise, between Hoadly and the Payne-Bookwalker crowd against Pendleton. Hoadly and this element are playing for the biggest stake that ever entered into Ohio politics. Judge Hoadly is a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. If he can carry the State, he will stand a fair chance for the nomination. If he should be nominated and elected, he would in all probability choose one of his cabinet

officers from Ohio. This choice would be Henry B. Payne, of Cleveland. If Hoadly carried the State, the Legislature would, in all probability, be Democratic. With the State Democratic and the national government Democratic, the following Legislature of 1885, that which elects the successor to John Sherman, would also be Democratic. Here we have two United States Senators to be elected. Pendleton, as not in the combination, is practically out of the way. The two probable nominees are J. W. Bookwalker and Oliver Payne, both wealthy men, and both popular. A President, a Cabinet officer, and two United States Senators—was there ever a greater stake fought for in a single campaign?"

A WORD ABOUT CENTRAL PARK.

Central Park is in its full summer beauty just now. The grass is kept so smooth and velvety. The great elms are clothed with luxuriant foliage and bright flowers; cool rocks and glassy lakes form a refreshing change to the hot, dusty streets of the city. Yesterday was Sunday, and more people were there than were in the churches. Hundreds of children were playing on the mall, and thousands of people of all ages, sexes, races, and conditions, were out to get a whiff of the woods and a taste of nature. There were a great many poor people among them, and the Italian, French, and German tongues were as often heard as the English. A number of Africans and a few Chinamen strolled here and there among the cosmopolitan throng, and I noticed that the faces of the foreigners were the happiest and the freest from care. They seemed to enjoy their surroundings. The Americans were better dressed, but they were as grave as coffin-carriers, and their faces more frequently frowned than smiled. The children were the happiest of all. They rolled about the grass in an ecstasy of glee, and when the evening shades were falling I heard one little white-faced cherub beg its father, who was about to start for home, to go back and stay all night. These little New Yorkers—at least those you see in Central Park of a Sunday—have not the healthy brown color of the babies of Cleveland and the country. There are more pale faces than rosy ones, more babies delicate than robust, and it seemed to me to-day that every tenth child was a cripple. Ye people that live in the country—for what is Cleveland but a big country town—should thank fortune that ye can bring up your children under God's sun and in God's oxygenated atmosphere. The polluted air, the foul smells, the dark hovels out of which many of these children come are not fit for animals, much less for men. All honor to the charity which throws open Central Park to them.

THE OBELISK.

I took a look at the obelisk while in the park. You know the scientists are now trying to prove it is not granite after all. They say it is only concrete, and that it has no great merit but that of age. They think it will not stand the rigors of an American climate, and that in a few years it will crumble into the dust of which it was made. However this may be, the obelisk is not affected as yet. To-day it looks as solid and firm as it did when it looked over the Mediterranean on the shores of Egypt. It is rather a new looking antiquity. Some of the hieroglyphics are as cleanly cut as though chiseled out yesterday by an American sculptor. Others are badly worn, as though by the action of wind and weather. From all outward signs the obelisk is of granite, and it is one solid stone. If it is, it will stand here a monument for the ages of the future as it has in Egypt for several thousand years for those of the past. Granite is the only stone that can fight with our climate and be victorious. Other stones crumble; marble discolors and decays; but granite will withstand the action of acids which will dissolve these others, and the weather beats against it in vain.

CARP.